

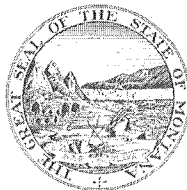
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT 8

DATE 2-6-13

HB Office of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau
Superintendent



www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-5643

December 19, 2012

The Honorable Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus,

As the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Montana, I have a responsibility to the 826 public schools in the state to provide them with information about what they can expect if sequestration goes into effect in January as well as what they can expect in the coming months.

The total proposed budget cuts to K-12 education would amount to a loss of more than \$11 million to Montana schools. Three school districts on Montana Indian reservations are among the top 25 districts in the nation that rely most heavily on federal funding for their annual operating budget. Cutting programs like Impact Aid, Title I, and IDEA will dramatically affect students that need support the most in order to succeed academically. The largest cuts in services to Montana schools are in the following areas:

- \$3.4 million in Impact Aid – Twenty percent of Montana schools receive federal Impact Aid and those funds are scheduled to be cut starting in January. These schools are on reservations, federal lands or on Malmstrom Air Force Base and cannot rely on property taxes to support local schools.
- \$3.0 million in Special Education – Montana ensures that the more than 16,000 students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education in our public schools.
- \$3.2 million in Title I – Nearly 80 percent of public schools in Montana qualify to receive Title I funding to provide additional resources for economically disadvantaged students.

Another proposed cut is to the School Improvement Grant. Montana has achieved great success with funding from this program. We've been able to turnaround some of our lowest performing schools by developing strong school and community partnerships where everyone plays a role in students' success. This program has received national awards and serves as a model for other rural states. We cannot afford to roll back the gains these communities have made. Yet, if sequestration goes into effect, we will lose the funds that help coordinate statewide technical assistance and support of school turnaround activities.

The Honorable Max Baucus

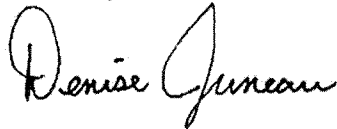
Page 2

December 19, 2012

I am aware that many of the programs are forward-funded and the impact of sequestration will not be fully felt until July 2013. However, this doesn't alleviate the concern I have for the health of our schools and our students. School districts will need to prepare budgets in advance of the school year and thus there could be layoffs and programmatic cuts even if sequestration is eventually averted.

The proposed cuts in education do a disservice to our children, our communities, and our future. We cannot have a healthy economy without an educated workforce. I thank you for your continued work on this issue and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Juneau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Denise Juneau
Superintendent of Public Instruction